

The citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan share these values and hope for a bright future where the evils and terror of Communism are vanished.

Our relationship with the island of Taiwan has been a solid one, of true understanding and of support for democratic values.

President Bush has publicly stated that the United States will do "whatever it takes" to help Taiwan's defense—an unprecedented statement which no prior U.S. President has made.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to cast their ballots on numerous issues dealing with their future and their democratically elected government, I stand tall, shoulder to shoulder, with the men and women who understand the democratic process and truly believe in it.

This prosperous island, only a few miles from the coast of an oppressive regime, continues to show the world that the ignorance of communism drowns the bliss of the imagination.

Having visited Taiwan myself, I send my heartfelt congratulations to the people who exercise and demonstrate democracy at its best—the opportunity for an individual to cast their opinion in the form of a vote.

HONORING MR. J. E. HANCOCK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Mr. J.E. Hancock, who passed away on March 5, 2004 at age 98. Through the course of my career, working in the business world and as a public official, rarely have I been so privileged to associate with such an extraordinary person who gives unselfishly and wholeheartedly to the interests and welfare of other people.

Born August 4, 1905, in Sherman, Texas, Mr. Hancock married Eileen Carruth on June 24, 1928. The couple moved to Lubbock in 1930 where Mr. Hancock finished his degree from Texas Tech University. After short teaching stints in New Home, Pettit, and O'Donnell, Texas, the couple moved back to Lubbock to farm.

Mr. Hancock was not only a renowned Lubbock inventor, but also one of Lubbock Christian University's (LCU) greatest benefactors. A man of great optimism and vision, it would not be in excess to say that Lubbock Christian University owes a significant part of its present status to Mr. Hancock's efforts and contributions. In fact, he is the single largest donor in the university's history and had given the school more than \$10 million over the years.

In addition to being a large financial contributor, he was elected to the board of trustees in February 1967 and served as chairman from 1978 to 1998. Mr. Hancock's achievement during this period is highlighted by the fact that during this period, LCU came into its own as a four-year college in 1972. On this vein, Mr. Hancock was largely responsible for helping LCU achieve university status in 1987. Moreover, his infectious enthusiasm and dynamism proved to be a stimulant that triggered several positive changes within the university. As a tribute to their services, LCU's College of Liberal Arts is named after Gene and Eileen Hancock.

As an inventor too, Mr. Hancock was not one to be left behind. Looking for a better way to terrace land, Hancock invented the Elevating-Terracer. This tool has proven to be a boon to its users and has been applied to all sizes and types of earth-moving scraper equipment. The Elevating-Terracer was such a success that it led to the establishment of Hancock Manufacturing Co. in Lubbock in 1947. The company went on to produce many new and improved scrapers. Now, Mr. Hancock holds 18 patents on his machinery designs and more than 15,000 Hancock scrapers were sold on a global level. Highly acclaimed, his designs have been used even in Israel, where the scrapers were used to dig the irrigation canal from the Sea of Galilee to the south desert. Following a successful business career, Hancock Manufacturing was acquired by Clark Equipment Co. in 1966.

Mr. Hancock is fondly remembered by his community as the multi-faceted pioneer and philanthropist who helped to make a difference to the people and society around him. To dream of helping is not difficult, but it is only those with real initiative, passion and creativity who actually succeed in becoming an instrument of change. Mr. Hancock was among those who succeeded. Anyone would do well to emulate his example if they truly desire a life that makes a difference and leaves a legacy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks to Gene Hancock. I am truly honored to recognize his accomplishments. He will certainly be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO LINDA WILSON,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments of our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Linda Wilson. Ms. Wilson's passion for community service, especially on behalf of libraries, has made our community a better place in which to live.

Linda Wilson was born in Rochester, Minnesota, and raised on a farm near Hayfield, Minnesota. An outstanding student, she was the valedictorian of Hayfield High School, then obtained her BA majoring in Math and Spanish and her MA in Library Science at the University of Minnesota. She first moved to California in 1968 and has called California home with the exception of a 5-year return to Minnesota and a 2-year residence in Florida. Currently, she lives in Monterey Park, California.

Her experience includes working as a research librarian at UC Riverside, the Adult/YA Extension librarian at the Kern County Library, supervising librarian at the San Diego County Library, and the county librarian at the Merced County Library. In 1995, she began her tenure as the city librarian for the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library of the City of Monterey Park.

Linda has been instrumental in several efforts to help libraries. In Minnesota, she worked on a tax measure to build a new library. She has written numerous applications and received grants for library service and buildings over the years, totaling more than \$10 million. In Monterey Park, Linda participated on the team that received Los Angeles County Proposition 14 funds to renovate and expand the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library. In addition, she also worked on the successful Measure C campaign that helped fund the expansion and provide service on Sundays at the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library in Monterey Park.

Linda's volunteer service is extensive. She is a graduate of Leadership Merced, past president of Merced Business and Professional Women, formerly active in Rebuilding America, and headed up the United Way campaign for Monterey Park city employees. Currently, she is the president of East Los Angeles-Montebello Business and Professional Women, a past president and active member of Monterey Park Rotary Club, a member of the Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce, and active in her church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Ms. Wilson also serves on the American Library Association and the California Library Association. She has received numerous honors, including the Librarian of the Year Award in 1990 from the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners and the Merced Business and Professional Women's Woman of the Year Award.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Linda Wilson. The entire community joins me in thanking Linda Wilson for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSYRIAN NEW
YEAR 6754

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my warm wishes to the Assyrian community; Kha B'Nissan. The Bet-Nahrain, an Assyrian organization in Ceres, California, will be honoring this day on March 21 through their numerous broadcasts which are viewed worldwide through satellite and internet.

The celebration of the Assyrian New Year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Assyria about 4,000 years ago. In the years surrounding 2000 B.C., the Assyrian New Year began with the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox, which is the first day of spring, March 21. According to Assyrian belief, the beginning of spring is the logical time to start the New Year because it is the season of rebirth, planting of new crops, and blossoming of trees and flowers. The Assyrian New Year typically lasts for 12 days, with each day having a particular theme for celebration.

The Assyrian population has made countless contributions to our community, and the Bet-Nahrain is an organization that attests and attributes to that fact. Bet-Nahrain is an Assyrian educational and cultural organization dedicated to the national aspirations and well-